

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1-18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) A medical device, comprising:

a proximal shaft section and a distal shaft section extending distally of the proximal shaft section;

the proximal shaft section includes a tubular shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

a plurality of slits defined in the tubular shaft;

wherein a greater number of slits are disposed near the distal end of the tubular shaft than near the proximal end of the tubular shaft;

the distal shaft section including a braid attached to the distal end of the tubular shaft;

wherein the braid overlaps the distal end of the tubular shaft such that a portion of the braid is located proximal of the distal end of the tubular shaft; and

a polymer layer disposed over the tubular shaft and the braid.

20. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the distal shaft section is deflectable.

21. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the tubular shaft has a longitudinal axis and wherein the slits are arranged generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

22. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the medical device has a transition in stiffness from the proximal shaft section to the distal shaft section.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the number of slits per unit length is greater near the distal end of the tubular shaft than near the proximal end of the tubular shaft.

25. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the slits have a first depth near the proximal end of the tubular shaft and a second depth near the distal end of the tubular shaft, and wherein the second depth is deeper than the first depth.

26. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the tubular shaft is a nickel-titanium alloy tube.

27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) A medical device, comprising:  
a proximal shaft portion and a distal shaft portion;  
the proximal shaft portion including a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end, the tubular member including a plurality of slits defined in the tubular member;  
the distal shaft portion including a braid, the braid attached to the tubular member and extending distally therefrom;  
wherein the braid overlaps the distal end of the tubular member such that a portion of the braid is located proximal of the distal end of the tubular member; and  
a polymer layer disposed over the tubular member and the braid.

29. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the distal shaft portion is deflectable.

30. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the tubular member has a longitudinal axis and wherein the slits are arranged generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

31. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the medical device has a transition in stiffness from the proximal shaft portion to the distal shaft portion.

32. (currently amended) The medical device of claim 28, wherein a greater number of slits are disposed near the distal end of the tubular member than near the proximal ~~junction~~ end of the tubular member.

33. (currently amended) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the number of slits per unit length is greater near the distal end of the tubular member than near the proximal ~~junction~~ end of the tubular member.

34. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the slits have a first depth near the proximal end of the tubular member and a second depth near the distal end of the tubular member, and wherein the second depth is deeper than the first depth.

35. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 28, wherein the tubular member is a nickel-titanium alloy tube.

36. (cancelled)

37. (previously presented) A medical device, comprising:  
a slotted tubular member having a plurality of slots therein, the slotted tubular member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a longitudinal axis;  
wherein the slots vary in number, location, frequency, size, or depth so that the tubular member varies in stiffness between the proximal end and the distal end;  
a braid attached to the distal end of the tubular member and extending distally therefrom;  
wherein the braid overlaps the distal end of the tubular member such that a portion of the braid is located proximal of the distal end of the tubular member; and  
a polymer layer disposed over the tubular member and the braid so as to define a catheter shaft.

38. (previously presented) The medical device of claim 37, wherein the slots defined are arranged generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

39-41. (cancelled)